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INFORMATION ON USSR AGRICULTURE, JUNE 1953

[This report presents information, from June 1953 Soviet news-
 papers, on agriculture in the USSR as a whole and in 11 union repub-
 lics. Progress and statistical data are given on the following: sown
 area, crops, mechanization, rural electrification, and fertilization.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

USSR

Rural electrification in the USSR has made rapid strides since the war;
 the capacity of rural electric power stations has reached 1.5 million kilowatts,
 a capacity six times as great as at the end of the prewar period.

Almost 20 percent of the kolkhozes, 95 percent of the MTS, and 90 percent
 of the sovkhoses in the USSR have been electrified. In hundreds of rayons, all
 kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and MTS have been electrified. In Sverdlovskaya Oblast,
 full electrification of these enterprises was achieved in 1947; it is nearing
 achievement in Moskovskaya, Leningradskaya, and Ryazanskaya oblasts and in the
 Armenian SSR.(1)

Estonian SSR

In 1953, the area devoted to potatoes in kolkhozes of the republic is being
 increased by more than 12,000 hectares.(2)

MTS of the republic are receiving many diesel tractors in 1953. Machine
 operators of the republic are successfully mastering operation of this type of
 tractor.(3)

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Kolkhozes of Pinskaya Oblast had completed sowing of fodder and ensilage crops by 3 June. More than 700 hectares above plan were sown to rape, turnips, carrots, and beets on land utilized for the first time. The area devoted to fodder root crops and ensilage crops in kolkhozes of the oblast was almost twice as great as in 1952.(4)

Kolkhozes of Pinskaya Oblast had fulfilled the 1953 plan for planting of potatoes by 10 June; they planted 3,000 more hectares than in 1952. The area planted by the checkrow method was four times as great as in 1952.(1)

As of 19 June, ten new MTS were in process of creation in the republic. The first tractors, combines, and other agricultural machines had been received.(5)

Ukrainian SSR

A rich harvest of fruit is ripening in the orchards of the republic. Harvesting of cherries is under way in Zakarpatskaya and Chernovitskaya oblasts. In spring 1953, fruit trees were planted on an area of more than 24,000 hectares above the 1953 plan. Orchards now occupy over 500,000 hectares in the republic.

Viticulture is also expanding in the republic. In spring 1953, grapevines were set out on an area of 3,800 hectares.(6)

Moldavian SSR

As in 1952, the entire area devoted to spiked grain crops in the republic is scheduled to be harvested by machine. Mechanization specialists have pledged to decrease the length of time spent on the harvest.(4)

Georgian SSR

In 1953, MTS of the republic received 272 new combines, including about 100 self-propelled machines.(7)

Azerbaijani SSR

In 1953, cotton production in the republic is to increase by 44.2 percent, as compared with 1952.(8)

Kolkhozes of the steppe regions of the republic had begun harvesting grain crops by 2 June.(9)

RSFSR

As of 2 June, kolkhozes and sovkhozes of Tatarskaya ASSR, Chuvashskaya ASSR, and Altayskiy Kray were making good progress in planting potatoes. However, in Smolenskaya Oblast, the plan for planting of potatoes had been fulfilled only 41 percent and that for planting of vegetables only 25 percent.

Planting of potatoes was proceeding at a slower rate than in 1952 in Bryanskaya and Orlovskaya oblasts; planting of vegetables was being carried out very slowly in Gor'kovskaya, Molotovskaya, and Rostovskaya oblasts.(9)

Kolkhozes of Altayskiy Kray finished planting potatoes on 3 June; the area devoted to potatoes was 8,000 hectares greater than in 1952.(8)

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In 1953, kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Altayskiy Kray sowed sugar beets on an area 2,000 hectares greater than in 1952. The areas devoted to sunflowers, vegetables, and other crops were also considerably greater than in 1952.(4)

Agricultural workers of Bashkirskaya ASSR successfully completed spring field work. The 1953 plan for sowing of spring crops was fulfilled 100.2 percent by kolkhozes and 101 percent by sovkhoses of the republic; the plan for sowing of fodder crops was fulfilled 127 percent by kolkhozes and 103 percent by sovkhoses.(10)

As of 1 June, sovkhoses and kolkhozes of Bryanskaya Oblast had completed sowing of spiked grain crops; one half of these were sown by the crisscross method. The plans for sowing of fodder root crops and perennial grasses and for plowing of summer fallow had also been fulfilled. This year, in contrast to previous years, kolkhozes and sovkhoses sowed lupine on the summer fallow instead of maintaining it as clean fallow; the lupine will serve as a green manure. Most sovkhoses had completed planting of potatoes by 1 June; the check-row method was employed on 50 percent of the area.(11)

In spring 1953, kolkhozes of Kurskaya Oblast sowed grasses on about 300,000 hectares. The plan for sowing of perennial grasses under nurse crops was fulfilled 125 percent. The plans for sowing of fodder root crops and ensilage crops were also exceeded.(12)

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Leningradskaya Oblast fulfilled the plans for sowing of grain and legume crops in less time than in 1952.(11)

Kolkhozes of Mordovskaya ASSR exceeded the plan for sowing of buckwheat, sugar beets, and fodder root crops. Annual grasses were sown on 5,000 hectares more than planned.(13)

As of 2 June, grass condition in the meadows of most kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Omskaya Oblast was far better than in 1952; as a result, hay mowing was starting considerably earlier than last year.(9)

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses of Penzenskaya Oblast had fulfilled the 1953 plan for planting of potatoes by 12 June; 4,000 more hectares were planted than in 1952.(14)

As of 1 June, kolkhozes of Ryazanskaya Oblast had planted thousands more hectares to vegetables than by the same date in 1952. The area devoted to fodder root crops and ensilage crops is being expanded by 2,000 hectares in 1953.(15)

Kolkhozes and sovkhoses of the Tatarskaya ASSR fulfilled the 1953 plan for sowing of spring wheat 111 percent.(16)

MTS of Chkalovskaya Oblast received 2,650 combines during the last 5 years; the MTS tractor park of the oblast is now almost 1.5 times as great as before the war.(4)

In 1953, about 1,800 combines, including 450 self-propelled machines, will carry out the grain harvest in Stavropol'skiy Kray.(1)

Kazakh SSR

In 1953, cotton production in the republic is to increase by 46.7 percent, as compared with 1952.(8)

Kolkhozes of the republic fulfilled the 1953 plan for sowing of spring crops in less time than in 1952. Wheat was sown on an area almost 100,000 hectares greater than planned.(11)

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A rich harvest of agricultural crops is expected in the southern part of the republic. Preparations for accepting grain deliveries at procurement points and elevators were being completed by 5 June.(6)

Uzbek SSR

Combine harvesting of winter barley had begun in Kashka-Dar'inskaya Oblast by 4 June.(17)

During the last 3 years, MTS of Andizhanskaya Oblast received more than 1,400 SKhM-48 cotton pickers. In 1953, they are to receive an additional 330 machines. According to plan, 46 percent of the entire area sown to cotton in 1953 is to be harvested mechanically.(18)

Turkmen SSR

In 1953, cotton production in the republic is to increase by 25.3 percent, as compared with 1952.(8)

The 1953 grain harvest had begun in the republic by 3 June; the first thousand hectares of grain had been reaped in Ashkhabadskaya Oblast by this date. In Maryyskaya Oblast, harvesting of winter barley had begun.(4)

Kirgiz SSR

As of 5 June, winter grains were in excellent condition in the Chu River valley; kolkhozes were expecting to harvest 25-30 more pud per hectare than in 1952 from fields which had been summer-fallowed before sowing. MTS were completing combine repairs; 98 percent of all grain is to be harvested by combine.(6)

SOURCES

1. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 10 Jun 53
2. Ibid., 9 Jun 53
3. Ibid., 30 Jun 53
4. Ibid., 4 Jun 53
5. Ibid., 20 Jun 53
6. Ibid., 6 Jun 53
7. Izvestiya, 7 Jun 53
8. Pravda, 4 Jun 53
9. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 3 Jun 53
10. Ibid., 11 Jun 53
11. Ibid., 2 Jun 53
12. Ibid., 14 Jun 53
13. Pravda, 15 Jun 53
14. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 13 Jun 53

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15. Pravda, 3 Jun 53
16. Sel'skoye Khozyaystvo, 16 Jun 53
17. Ibid., 5 Jun 53
18. Ibid., 25 Jun 53

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